

DRAFT
6/21/73

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF

DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF ACTIONS BY THE INTERAGENCY
CLASSIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (#1)

As you may know, a year ago the Interagency Classification Review Committee was established by President Nixon to assist the National Security Council in implementing Executive Order 11652 on classification and declassification. The members of this Committee include a Chairman designated by the President, the Archivist of the United States, and senior representatives from each of the departments of State, Defense, and Justice, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Atomic Energy Commission and the National Security Council staff.

Inasmuch as the decisions of the Interagency Committee have an impact on departments and agencies other than those represented on the Committee, it was decided at the last meeting to establish an information memorandum summarizing the Committee's actions addressed to the heads of the departments and agencies and the chairmen of the Departmental Classification Review Committees. Accordingly, this

memorandum is the first in that series. We shall also shortly issue a round-up memorandum covering actions of the Committee over the past year.

The following is a summary of actions by the Interagency Committee at its meeting on June 13, 1973:

1. Pursuant to Executive Order 11652, the head of a department or agency has the authority to downgrade or declassify any classified information originated by his department or agency and no longer requiring protection in the national security interest. The downgrading or declassification of such information may either be by categories of documents, items of information, or specific documents. This matter was discussed by the Committee with reference to material classified pursuant to Executive Order 10501, as amended and placed in the Group 3 category which prior to June 1, 1972 would have resulted in automatic downgrading at 12 year intervals to the level of Confidential. Under Executive Order 11652, such automatic downgrading no longer occurs. It was the recommendation of the Committee that department and agency heads consider authorizing application

of this or a speedier downgrading schedule for such classified material.

2. A subcommittee of the ICRC has been established and is engaged in a series of working sessions to propose standard and optional forms related to classified document security.

3. The Committee approved amendments to a department's regulations on classification and declassification which grant a requester 30 days in which to appeal to the Departmental Committee the denial of a mandatory declassification request pursuant to Executive Order 11652.

James B. Rhoads
Acting Chairman
Interagency Classification
Review Committee